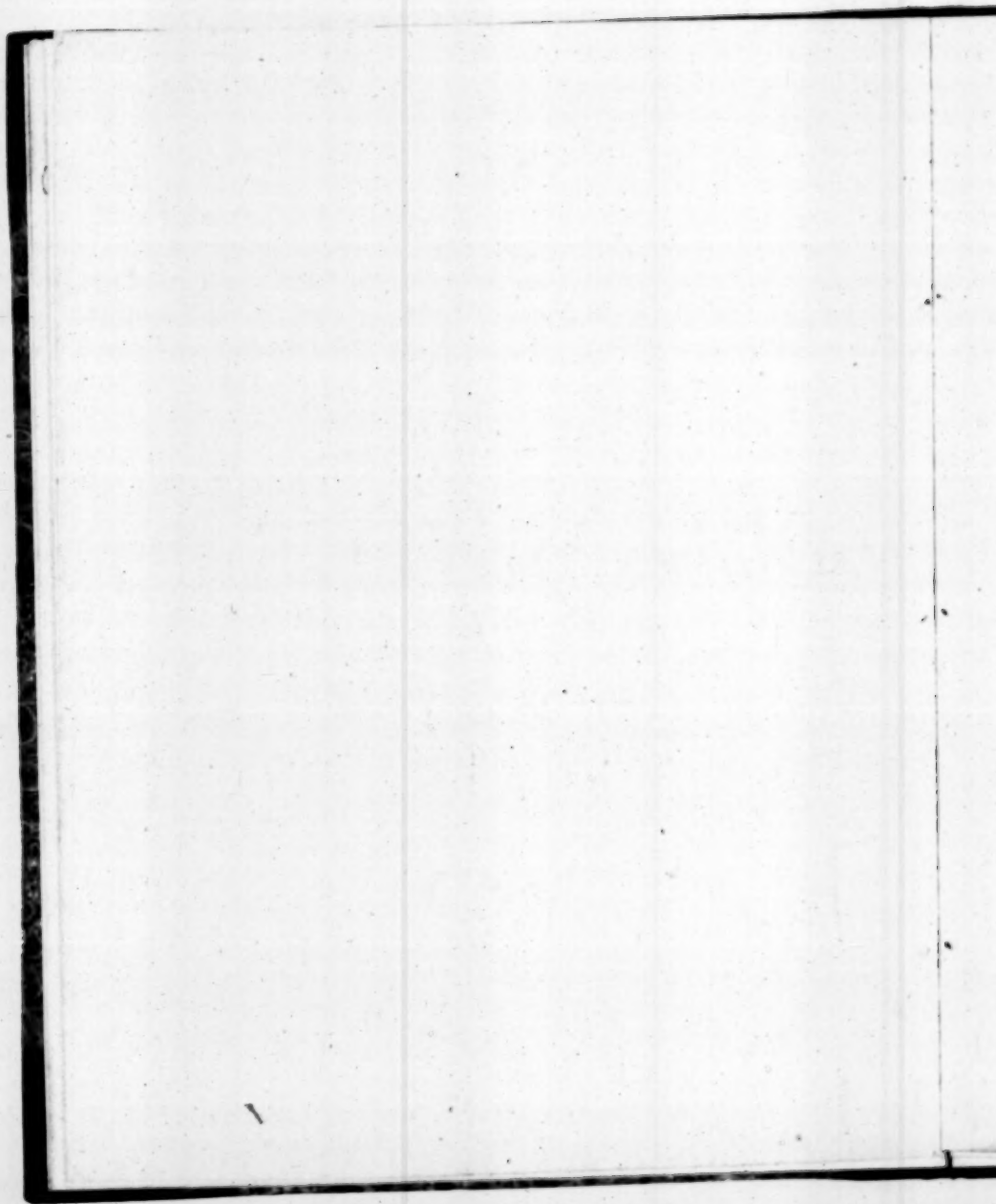


QVEENE
ELIZABETHS
SPEECH
TO HER LAST
PARLIAMENT.





The 30. of November 1601, her Maiestie
being set vnder State in the Councell
Chamber at Whitehall, the Speaker, ac-
companied with Privy Councillours, be-
sides Knights and Burgessees of the lower
House to the number eight-score, pre-
senting themselves at her Maiesties feet,
for that so graciously and speedily shee
had heard and yeelded to her Subiects
desires, and proclaimed the same in their
bearing as followeth.

Mr. Speaker,

WEE perceiue your coming is to
present thanks vnto Vs; Know I
accept them with no lesse ioy then
your loues can haue desire to offer such a Pre-
sent, and doe more esteeme it then any Treas-
ure or Riches, for those Wee know how to
prize, but Loyaltie, Loue, and Thankes, I ac-
count them inualluable; and though God hath
raysed mee high, yet this I account the glorie
of my Crowne, that I haue reigned with your
Loues. This makes that I doe not so much
reioyce that God hath made mee to bee a

Queene, as to bee a Queene ouer so thankfull
a People, and to bee the meane vnder God to
conserue you in safety, and preserue you from
danger, yea to bee the Instrument to deliuer
you from dishonour, from shame, and from
infamie; to keepe you from out of seruitude,
and from slauerie vnder our Enemies, and
cruell tyranny, and vilde oppression intended
against Vs: for the better withstanding wher-
of, Wee take very acceptably your intended
helpes, and chiefly in that it manifesteth your
loues and largenesse of heart to your Sove-
raigne. Of My selfe I must say this, I neuer
was any greedy scraping grasper, nor a strict
fast-holding Prince, nor yet a waster, My heart
was neuer set vpon any worldly goods, but
onely for my Subiects good. What you doe
bestow on Me, I will not hoard vp, but receiue
it to bestow on you againe, yea Mine owne
Properties I account yours to bee expended
for your good, and your eyes shall see the be-
stowing of it for your wellfare.

Mr. *Speaker*, I would wish you and the rest
to stand vp, for I feare I shall yet trouble you
with longer speech.

Mr. *Speaker*, you giue me thanks, but I am
more to thanke you, and I charge you, thanke
them of the Lower-House from Me, for had
I not receiued knowledge from you, I might
a fallen into the lapse of an Error, onely for
want of true information.

Since I was Queene yet did I neuer put My
Pen.

Pen to any Grant but vpon pretext and semblance made Me, that it was for the good and auail of my Subiects generally, though a private profit to some of my auncient Seruants who haue deserved well: But that my Grants shall bee made Grievances to my People, and Oppressions, to bee priuiledged vnder colour of Our Patents, Our Princely Dignitie shall not suffer it.

When I heard it, I could giue no rest vnto my thoughts vntill I had reformed it, & those Varlets, lewd persons, abusers of my bounty, shall know I wil not suffer it. And *Mr. Speaker*, tell the House from mee, I take it exceeding gratefull, that the knowledge of these things are come vnto mee from them. And though amongst them the principall Members are such as are not touched in private, and therefore need not speake from any feeling of the grieffe, yet We haue heard that other Gentlemen also of the House, who stand as free, haue spoken as freely in it; which giues Vs to know that no respects or intrests haue moved them other then the mindes they beare to suffer no diminution of our Honour, and our Subiects loue vnto Vs. The zeale of which affection tending to ease my People, & knit their hearts vnto vs, I embrace with a Princely care farre aboue all earthly Treasures. I esteeme my Peoples loue, more then which I desire not to merit: And God that gaue me here to sit, and placed mee ouer you, knowes that I neuer re-

spected my selfe, but as your good was consoci-
ued in mee, yet what dangers, what practises,
and what perills I haue passed, some, if not all
of you know: but none of these things doe
mooue mee, or ever made mee feare, but it is
God that hath delivered me.

And in my gouerning this Land, I haue euer
set the last Iudgement day before mine eyes,
and so to rule, as I shall be Iudged and answer
before a higher Iudge, to whose Iudgement
Seat I doe appeale in that neuer thought was
cherished in my heart that tended not to my
Peoples good.

And if my Princely bountie haue beene
abused, and my Grants turned to the hurt of
my People contrary to my will and meaning,
or if any in Authoritie vnder mee haue negle-
cted, or converted what I haue committed
vnto them, I hope God will not lay their culps
to my charge.

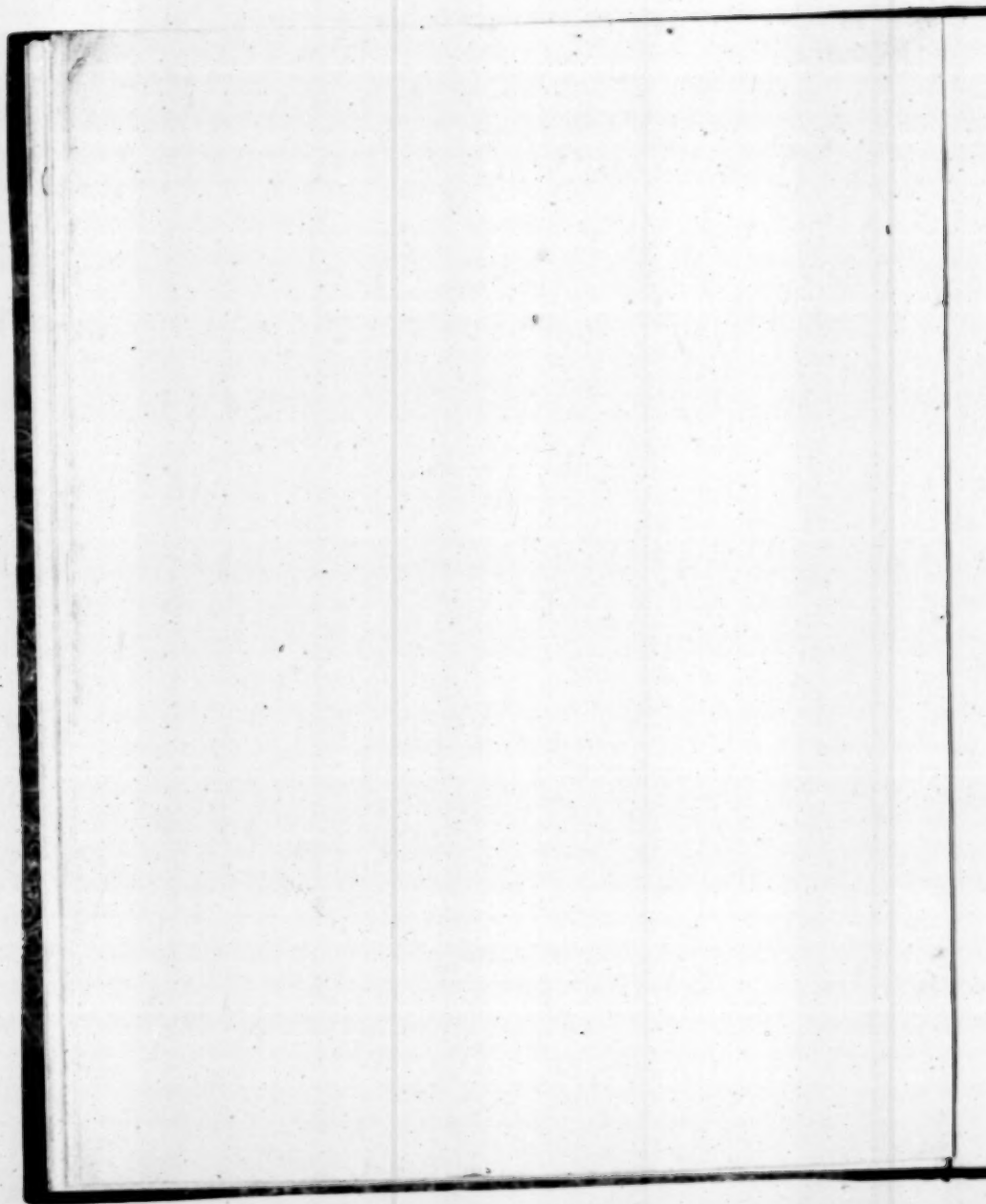
To be a King, and weare a Crown, is a thing
more glorious to them that see it, then it is
pleasant to them that beare it: for my selfe, I
neuer was so much inticed with the glorious
name of a King, or the royall authoritie of a
Queene, as delighted that God hath made me
His Instrument to maintaine His Truth and
Glorie, and to defend this Kingdome from
dishonour, dammage, tyrannie, and oppressi-
on. But should I ascribe any of these things
vnto my selfe, or my sexly weakenesse, I were
not worthy to liue, and of all most vnworthy
of

of the mercies I haue receiued at Gods hands,
but to God onely and wholly all is giuen and
ascribed.

The cares and trouble of a Crowne I cannot more fitly resemble then to the Drugges of a learned Physitian, perfumed with some Aromaticall saour, or to bitter Pils guilded ouer, by which they are made more exceptable or lesse offensive, which indeed are bitter and vnpleasant to take; and for my owne part, were it not for Conscience sake to discharge the dutie that God hath layd vpon me, and to maintaine his glorie, and keepe you in safetie, in mine owne disposition I should be willing to resigne the place I hold to any other, and glad to be freed of the Glory with the Labors, for it is not my desire to liue nor to reign longer then my life and reigne shall bee for your good. And though you haue had and may haue many mightier and wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you neuer had nor shall haue any that will loue you better.

Thus Mr. *Speaker*, I commend mee to your loyall Loues, and yours to my best care and your further Councels, & I pray you Mr. *Counsellor*, & Mr. *Secretary*, and you of my Council, that before these Gentlemen depart into their Countreys you bring them all to kisse my
Hand.

FINIS.



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